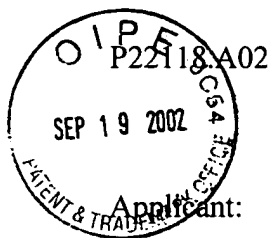


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Mikio WATANABE et al.

Art Unit: 1711

Serial No : 10/070,436
(National Stage of PCT/JP00/006398)

Examiner: Unknown

I.A. Filed : September 20, 2000

For : METHOD FOR PRODUCING CYCLIC LACTIC ACID OLIGOMER

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED
SEP 20 2002
TC 1700

Sir :

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby bring the following information to the attention of the Examiner:

U.S. Patent No. 5,717,111 to Koehler et al.; and

Japanese Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 9-227388 (and an English language abstract thereof), which is cited and discussed in the specification, beginning at page 1.

Copies of the foregoing documents are provided herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

Further pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR § 1.56 and in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby bring to the attention of the Examiner the International Search Report and International Preliminary Examination Report

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issued in connection with family member International Application No. PCT/JP00/06398, and the following documents cited therein:

JP 6-306264 (and an English language abstract thereof);

EP 402676 A2 (and family member U.S. Patent No. 5,006,637 to Guggenheim et al.); and
Macromolecules 21(2), pages 286-93 (1988).

A copy of the International Search Report International Preliminary Examination Report (along with English language translations thereof) were filed on March 19, 2002 with the present application. The Examiner is referred to the English language translations for the relevance indicated by the Japanese Examiner for the cited documents with respect to the claims of the International Application.

Each document is listed on the attached PTO-1449 form to permit the Examiner to indicate consideration thereof. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the documents cited above and to confirm such consideration by initialing in the appropriate spaces on the PTO-1449 form and returning a copy of the initialed form to Applicants.

Further pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR § 1.56, Applicants hereby bring to the attention of the Examiner the following copending application:

"Method for Producing Cyclic Lactic Acid Oligomer," Appln. No. 10/070,435, in the names of M. WATANABE et al.

A copy of the above-referenced application is provided herewith for the Examiner's consideration. The Examiner is invited to review the file wrappers of this application, including the specification, claims, disclosure statements, and documents cited therein, at the U.S. Patent

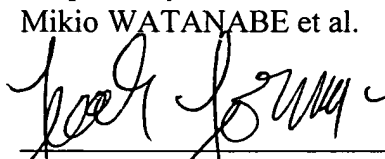
P22118.A02

and Trademark Office. Of course, if the Examiner cannot locate the files, Applicants will provide any requested materials, if possible.

Applicant notes that an Office Action on the Merits has not issued in the instant application. However, if an Office Action on the Merits has issued, and is crossing this statement in the mail, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee necessary for consideration of this statement, including any payment under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p), to be charged to Applicant's Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should there be any questions regarding the above or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
Mikio WATANABE et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein
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42547/BHB

September 19, 2002
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